

Town of Wethersfield Conservation Commission
Minutes of January 14, 2009

Vice Chairman Robert Pulford called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room. Members present were Ingrid Boelhouwer, William Knapp, Ralph Moyer and James Schumaker. Christopher Shepard of the Eleanor Buck Wolf Nature Center was also in attendance.

A. Approval of Minutes.

The December 10, 2008 minutes were approved, with one abstention by Mr. Knapp.

B. Report by Christopher Shepard.

1. The commission has a remainder of \$385.00 in its operating budget.
2. Negotiations are ongoing between the town and the Wilkus' property owners for the purchase of their property.
3. He reported that the town has a policy for member absenteeism for its commissions. In practice, however, the Chair usually consults informally with the Town Manager when a problem arises and then it is usually corrected. Due to the fact that the commission is not at full strength, generating a quorum to carry out any business can be at times problematic.

C. Communications.

The Commission received a copy of a letter written to the Wethersfield Country Club from the State of Connecticut's Department of Environmental Protection extending its water diversion permit related to Two Stone Brook until October 30, 2019.

D. Beaver Brook Linear Park.

Mr. Shepard reported that he expects the Town Council to place this topic on the agenda for its February 2nd meeting. Our document (enclosed with the December 10, 2008 minutes) which will go to the Council will be accompanied by another document from Ms. Bagley in which she will communicate the support for this initiative from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

E. New Commission Members.

Two names were proposed: Mr. Tom Brown and Mr. Richard Baldoni. Mr. Shepard agreed to approach Mr. Brown, and if unsuccessful, Mr. Knapp would follow through with a contact to Mr. Baldoni. Mr. Shepard agreed to place the vacancy announcement in the next issue of the Nature Center's Newsletter.

F. New Business.

1. Wethersfield Heritage Trail Day.

Mr. Shepard announced the event will take place on April 25, 2009 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at the Pitkin Community Center. A major theme will be promoting fitness. He announced a planning session will be held on January 22nd. Ms. Boelhouwer and Mr. Schumaker will attend the planning session.

2. Nature Trail Maintenance.

Mr. Shepard invited commission members to volunteer in a program to assist in maintaining the town's nature trails. He will be hosting a workshop devoted to trail building and maintaining techniques soon.

3. New Initiative.

Mr. Shepard reported that he thought the town would greatly benefit from an open space management plan. He recommended that the commission takes on as one of its 2009 projects the creation of such a document. He reported that the Town of Mansfield has one in place and he will get information to commission members before the next meeting.

G. Adjournment.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m. Next meeting to be held 2/11/09.

Respectfully submitted,

Ralph O. Moyer, Jr., Secretary pro diem